

Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses



The Ridgeway, London, NW7 1RN Telephone: 020 8906 2211

SDH:SSM May 10, 2012

TO ALL BODIES OF ELDERS

Re: Language classes

Dear Brothers:

Jehovah God has an earnest desire for people of all nationalities to hear the good news of the Kingdom. (Rev. 14:6, 7) To this end, we are writing to you about the opportunity to get involved in a language class. As you may know, the Governing Body has provided training to hundreds of elders and ministerial servants throughout Britain and Ireland, most recently through two seminars in March 2012. We have written to all the circuit overseers, informing them of the trained brothers in their circuits, and reminding them of the procedure for setting up a language class.

Branch-sponsored language classes are always coordinated by the circuit overseer. He makes a recommendation to the branch office, and if the class is approved, he contacts local congregations and makes arrangements to suit the approved instructors and the students. One body of elders will be asked to sponsor the class, allowing use of the Kingdom Hall and providing territory. The classes are normally held on Saturday mornings for approximately two hours, followed by ministry in the relevant language. The course runs for four months. Any regular pioneers enrolled are given a concession of 25 hours per month for preparing for and attending the classes. Of course, before the circuit overseer can recommend a class, he needs to know the potential in the field and the level of interest among the publishers, for a given language.

What can the elders do? Elders, ministerial servants, pioneers and other qualified publishers who are in a position to apply for the language class should be encouraged to do so. Your enthusiastic support and positive spirit may help advance the preaching work and allow more to become "rightly disposed for everlasting life." (Acts 13:48) As elders, you are in a good position to know the needs of the territory, and which language(s) would be most useful. You will also be aware of foreign-language congregations and groups nearby, where more help may be needed. While there are a number of commercially available language courses, which publishers can use of their own initiative, the branch-sponsored accelerated language course has proved to be extremely effective in quickly enabling students to use their new language on the ministry. This often leads to rapid progress in the language, enabling these ones to join a congregation or group where their new skills can be used to the full.

If you find a number of publishers are interested in learning a particular language, please speak to your circuit overseer the next time he visits the congregation. He will then be in a position to assess the needs and potential throughout the circuit, and can decide whether to recommend a language class.

Thank you for your attention to this exciting and productive aspect of our service to our impartial God, Jehovah. We feel sure that an ever-greater shout of praise will be given to his name as we work together with you to bring the good news to people "of all nations and tribes and peoples and tongues." (Rev. 7:9) May we take this opportunity to send you our warm Christian love and best wishes.

Your brothers,

*Christian Congregation
of Jehovah's Witnesses*

cc: Travelling overseers